

TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Submitted by Diane Stevens, Town Secretary

May 11, 2015

Present: Mr. John Goerlach, Chairman
Mr. Robert Ericson
Mr. Henry Sayers
Mr. Paul Sieloff, Town Administrator

Warrants: Warrants Signed

The meeting was opened by John Goerlach at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Martha Freedman on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Lanesborough came before the Board to ask them to table Item #10 on tonight's Agenda (Kinder Morgan access to Town Property for surveys) until the next Selectmen's meeting on May 18th. Larry Spatz also asked the Board to defer Item #10 on the Agenda. Mr. Spatz stated that the Board of Health has serious concerns about the pipeline and needs to further investigate. Motion 15-48. Motion made by Henry Sayers to table Item #10 (Kinder Morgan access to Town Property for surveys) until the May 18th meeting, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted.

Ron Tinkham came before the Board regarding the Water District's work on Sunrise Street. Mr. Tinkham stated that he did a walk through with DPW Director Decelles and a board member of the Water District. The residents on Sunrise Street are not satisfied with the way the street was left and stated that clean-up work needs to be completed. Mr. Tinkham stated that with the warm weather residents have already begun to frequent the Town beach and the condition it was left in is disconcerting. Mr. Goerlach asked if DPW Director Decelles saw the work that still needs to be completed. Mr. Tinkham said he did. Mr. Goerlach stated that the original proposal was to pave the road when the work was completed and it will not be done this year. Mr. Tinkham stated that culvert work needs to be completed. Mr. Goerlach stated that the Board will talk to the Water District and possibly have the Highway Department perform the clean-up work.

Permit(s) / Contract(s) / Use of Town Property or Notification to Town of Community Event / Appointment(s)

One Day Liquor License - Berkshire Geobash – July 15 – 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Katherine Gwozdz, Chairman of Berkshire Geobash, Inc. and James Benson from Arizona Pizza came before the Board to advise them of an event they would like to hold on July 15th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the parking lot of Arizona Pizza. Food for the event will be supplied by Arizona Pizza. Ms. Gwozdz also presented an Application for a One Day Temporary Liquor License for the Board's approval. Mr. Gwozdz stated that there will be 3 easy-up tents and 3 porta potties available for the approximately 70 participants who will attend. Ms. Gwozdz and Mr. Benson stated that there will be a roped off area in the corner of the lot for the bar area and Sam Adams will be providing the alcoholic beverages which will be served by an Arizona Pizza tip certified bartender. Bracelets will be provided to prevent underage drinking. Mr. Sayers stated that the Police Department is requiring that 1 detail officer be present at the event at a cost of \$171.20 for 4 hours. Ms. Gwozdz asked the Board if the hours could be extended from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. due to this requirement. Motion 15-49. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the Use of Town Property or Notification to Town of Community Event and the One Day Temporary Liquor License for Berkshire Geobash for July 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with the condition of 1 detail officer as required by the Police Department, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted.[#1]

V's Doghouse – Change of D/B/A – The Brookhouse

A Petition for Change of License for V's Doghouse was presented to the Board for the purpose of adding a D/B/A to the existing business in the name of "The Brookhouse." Motion 15-50. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Petition for Change of License for V's Doghouse D/B/A The Brookhouse, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted. [#2]

Accept Assessor's Certification of Available Overlay Funds

Motion 15-51. Motion made by Robert Ericson to accept the overlay value of 35,700.00 as presented to the Board by Assessor M. Kelly Tolisano, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. [#3]

Proposed Collar City Auction Contract

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a proposed contract from Collar City Auctions Realty and Mgmt., Inc. for their review. Item placed on next Agenda per Mr. Sayers. [#4]

Proposed contract from Beth Greenblatt

Mr. Sayers asked if there were any costs involved with this contract. Mr. Ericson stated he did not believe so but would investigate further with the Green Community program. Mr. Goerlach stated that if there were any costs they would revisit the item. Motion 15-52. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the contract with Beth Greenblatt with the condition that if there were any costs associated that the contract, it be brought back in front of Board, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted. [#5]

Library Energy Conservation Project - Energy Committee

Mr. Sieloff stated that this item was placed on the Agenda to give an interim update to the Board. Mr. Ericson stated that he is working on a Town Hall plan and gave the Board an update as to the Energy Committee's recommendations.

Memorial Day Parade

Mr. Goerlach stated that he will be unable to attend the parade due to a prior engagement and asked Mr. Sayers to be present to give a speech. Mr. Sayers stated that he would attend.

Police Station Roof Project

Mr. Sieloff updated the Board as to the status of the project. DPW Director Decelles has not been able to secure all of the required bids and the matter was placed on the next Agenda.

Vote on Selectmen's Budgets

Operating Budget & Capital Budget

Carrie Greene and Richard Cohen came before the Board on behalf of the Mount Greylock Regional High School Committee relative to a letter received from the Board regarding the funding of the Mount Greylock Regional High School budget. Ms. Greene stated that the Committee received the letter from the Board and submitted a response by Committee member Steven Miller. Ms. Greene stated that the Committee is seeking an additional \$11,000 from the Board. Mr. Sayers stated that the Board is always in support of education. Mr. Sayers stated that it was his understanding that the Committee received additional State funding and with the Superintendent's salary coming in lower than anticipated he believes that the Committee has the funds to support the after school bus without the Town expending more money. Ms. Greene stated that the Committee has been transparent in what they have asked for and without a cushion if unanticipated expenses come up they have no recourse. Mr. Sayers stated that the Board will go with the Town's people at Town Meeting. Mr. Sayers stated that if the school receives more funding after the budget is passed the Town will not be able to recoup the money expended. Mr. Cohen stated that staffing has been cut and they are looking to only fund one after school bus instead of two. Mr. Cohen stated that Lanesborough benefits more from the after school bus. Mr. Goerlach asked Ms. Greene if they were planning on doing a study like Lanesborough Elementary did for staffing of special education programs. Ms. Greene stated that they look at staffing every quarter. Mr. Sayers stated that at the budget meeting it was stated that if additional money was given it would possibly be used for items other than what is proposed. Mr. Cohen stated that they cannot commit to how the money would actually be expended but the after school bus is a top priority. Mr. Sayers asked about raises for teachers. Ms. Greene stated negotiations will be starting in October but with new standards in place it was unlikely that 6% increases would be issued. Mr. Sayers asked if they could ask for more money for tuition students. Ms. Greene said she would look into this. Mr. Cohen stated that the gap between tuition and the cost to educate per student is only about 5% over the next two years. Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Sieloff if he could present two articles at Town Meeting, one with the bus and one without. Mr. Sieloff stated he would look into this. Mr. Sieloff went through the proposed changes to the budgets with the Board. Mr. Goerlach asked if there would be free cash if the Board decided to fund Mount Greylock budget. Mr. Goerlach would like this budget to be decided on the floor at Town Meeting. Motion 15-53. Motion made by

Robert Ericson to vote for the proposed Selectmen's budget, which is the original Town Administrator's budget plus the 11 proposed changes on the spreadsheet, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. [#6]

Ambulance Enterprise Budget

Motion 15-54. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Ambulance Enterprise budget, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted. [#7]

Sewer Enterprise Budget

Motion 15-55. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Sewer Enterprise budget, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted. [#8]

Kinder Morgan access to Town Property for surveys

Board agreed to table this matter until the next meeting.

Discussion on letter to Williamstown, Hancock and New Ashford regarding potential study group

Mr. Sieloff asked the Board what their intention was in relation to this study group. Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Sieloff if the Regional School Research Committee was ever disbanded and what the status was of the survey they were going to complete. Mr. Sieloff stated that he has not heard back from the Committee. Mr. Ericson would like to set a sunset date for future committees of this type. Mr. Sieloff stated that if they are not reappointed they are considered disbanded on June 30, 2015. Mr. Goerlach would like the Town Secretary to write a letter to the Committee asking if it requires additional information from the Board in order to complete the survey.

Proposed Police Chief Contract

Moved to executive session.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Sieloff presented and reviewed the proposed Town Meeting Warrant with the Board. Motion 15-56. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve Articles B through P as listed on the proposed Warrant for Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. Motion 15-57. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve Articles R through U on the proposed Warrant for Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. Motion 15-58. Motion made Henry Sayers to recommend the Articles that have been placed on the Warrant at this meeting, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted. [#9]

Quarterly review of Board's Open Projects List

Mr. Goerlach would like to review this list at the next meeting. [#10]

Other business which could not have been reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of the meeting.

None.

Selectmen's Items

Mr. Sayers would like Mr. Sieloff to check with the Tree Warden regarding trees that the State cut down on Potter Mountain Road at the turn around which are on Town property. Mr. Ericson would like to check into trees that are located in back of the Town Hall. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would check into this. Mr. Sayers asked about removing the dog kennel in back of Town Hall. Mr. Sieloff stated he talked to the DPW Director about removing the chain linked fence. Mr. Sieloff stated that the Animal Control Officer has a relationship with the Sonsini Center which is where he bring the animals and that the kennel at Town Hall is no longer used. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will place the item on a future Agenda for discussion. Mr. Goerlach would like the Water District to repair the large hole on Imperial Street in front of the Stowers residence which was made to repair the frozen water line this winter. Mr. Sieloff stated he would check on this.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Sieloff stated that met with Ryan Chamberland, the Governor's Director from the Western Massachusetts office. Mr. Chamberland was visiting Berkshire County town halls. Mr. Sieloff gave him a tour of the building and told the Board that he is the direct liaison to the Governor's office for the Town.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of April 27, 2015 (Regular and Executive Sessions), seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of April 28, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted.

Executive Session – To enter into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Motion made by Robert Ericson to go into executive session at 7:52 p.m. in preparation for negotiations for nonunion personnel, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted.

Motion 15-59. Motion made by Robert Ericson to appoint Timothy Sorrell as Acting Police Chief until June 30, 2015 at an annual salary rate of \$80,000 per year as of midnight, May 13, 2015, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted.

Motion 15-60. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the General Release and Settlement Agreement between the Town and F. Mark Bashara and to authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute same, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Henry Sayers, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Footnotes:

- [#1] Use of Town Property or Notification to Town of Community Event / One Day Temporary Liquor License – Berkshire Geobash, Inc.
- [#2] Petition for Change of License for V's Doghouse – d/b/a The Brookhouse
- [#3] Assessor's Certification of Available Overlay Funds
- [#4] Proposed Collar City Auction Contract
- [#5] Proposed Contract – Beth Greenblatt
- [#6] Board of Selectmen Letter – Mount Greylock Regional High School Committee / Mount Greylock Regional High School Committee Letter
- [#7] Proposed Ambulance Enterprise Budget
- [#8] Proposed Sewer Enterprise Budget
- [#9] Proposed Annual Town Meeting Warrant